

MINUTES  
San Bernardino County  
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING  
July 3, 2008  
12:00-2:00 pm  
Behavioral Health Resource Center  
Conference Room F119-120  
850 E. Foothill Blvd.  
Rialto, CA 92376

**Members present:**

Christopher Massa, Carol Grisotti, Veatrice Jews, Jane Mercer, Nick Andonov, Gabriel Gonzales, David Ford, Bill Swift, Jane Ann Godager, Tanya Perry, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales.

**Excused absence:**

Carol Grisotti

**Guests:**

Allan Rawland, Director; Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Mental Health Commission; May Farr; NAMI Inland Valley; Beverly Scott, ARCH Morongo Basin; Hope Anderson, MHS Success First; Rodolfo Pinon, Casa de San Bernardino; Jo Pi, Vista Guidance Center; Shanaz Moslehi, Stephen Garrett, DM Family Intervention Support; Laurretta Ross, Doris Turner, Dot Walsh, Mariann Ruffolo, Hope Anderson, André Bossieux, CaSonya Thomas, Robbin Huff-Musgrove, Susanne Kulesa, Bob Sudol, Jerry Dowdall, Rosa Gomez, Gary Atkins, Florence Jackson, Linda Charkins, Charlene Daniels, Ralph Ortiz, Ronda Sims, Michael Schertel, Arelis John Martinez, Maria Coronado, Sharon Alston, DBH.

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

Chairperson Andonov called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. The agenda for this meeting was approved. The minutes of June 5, 2008 were adopted as written.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairperson Andonov stated that the State of the Behavioral Health event was MAGNIFICENT! He acknowledged the leadership of Allan Rawland, Director, and the support provided by Debi Pasco, Clerk of the Commission. Dr. Andonov has worked for many directors during his career; but none that match the knowledge and skills that Director Rawland possess. Dr. Andonov is proud to be a part of the many accomplishments of the department including the recent National Association of Counties Award (NACo) that were received by the INFO and TAY programs. He is proud to announce that Loma Linda University is expanding their Behavioral Health Unit.

Commissioner Ford attended the California Association of Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions (CALMHB/C) on June 19-21 in Burlingame, CA. He stated that a resource guide will be finished within the next 6 months designed to assist Commissions to function within their county and navigate the current mental health systems. Commissioner Ford stated that San Bernardino County is light years ahead of other counties, as he was asked multiple times how San Bernardino County operates certain programs.

Chairperson Andonov welcomed and introduced Lisha Smith from the Office of Supervisor Gonzales, who is a great supporter of mental health.

### **Report of Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Public Hearings**

Gary Atkins, Deputy Director, reported the PEI activities on behalf of Michelle Dusick, PEI Coordinator: 30 day posting for review is complete; document downloaded over 5000 times; comments were received; 4 public hearings, chaired by members of the Mental Health Commission from June 18 - June 26 throughout San Bernardino County were attended by stakeholders; final submission of PEI Plan to the State on 7/14/08.

Director Rawland acknowledged and commended Michelle Dusick and team for their hard work on a well-written plan and presentation of details. Our Plan will be hitting the State at the same time as San Diego County's PEI Plan. We will take advantage of the 60-day review period by the State, so that when the Plan is approved we will hit the floor running. Commissioner Jews worked with Michelle as part of the team and admired her dedication and hard work.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **State of Behavioral Health Event**

Director Rawland thanked Commissioner Ford for sharing his experience and comments received at the CALMHB/C meeting. Allan commended the Deputy Directors and staff for their hard work on the outstanding presentations at the State of Behavioral Health Event on June 30, 2008. In attendance was Chris Mardis, Field Representative for Supervisor Gonzales office and in addition, members from the Riverside County Mental Health Commission. This year's Director Award of Excellence was presented to David Miller, Peer and Family Advocate, for his inspiration to others. Director Rawland asked Lynn Neuenswander, DBH Public Information Officer, to try to get David Miller's story on Channel 3 local network.

#### **FY 08-09 State and County Budget**

The State has put a reimbursement moratorium on 6 regulations that will impact school districts and mental health systems with a Medicaid Supplemental Bill effective April 9, 2008. The State has been extremely quiet on the resolution of the budget. San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has approved our budget and we are moving forward, however unknown factors from the State could have an impact. \$3 million reduction in Drug/Alcohol services and Mental Health Managed Care are the hardest hit. We have prepared contingency plans and staff are working very hard to capture federal funding by increasing Medi-Cal. Anticipate the State budget by August or September 08.

### **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Beverly Scott stated that some pharmacies are not filling psychotropic medications for non-funded clients. Director Rawland stated that clients in our system will be notified of the problem. Dr. Dalal has alerted his physicians to use samples and indigent funds when possible; as we want our patients to receive their medication.

Tim Shipchen, Center for Individual Development, provided a tribute to Dr. Andonov' years of dedicated service to the County of San Bernardino. Dr. Andonov will be missed; but he is sure that David Ford will be an excellent replacement as Chair of the Mental Health Commission.

John Pi, the walking billboard for committees and coalitions (as he calls himself), stated that Supervisor Gonzales, Chair of First 5, works tirelessly to provide funding sources for children and families. Mr. Pi thanked Dr. Andonov for listening to him and providing feedback.

Director Rawland stated that Dr. Andonov is retiring from this Commission to move to Santa Barbara after 40 years of experience serving clients/consumers and ensuring that they have a voice. A recognition plaque was presented to Dr. Andonov.

## **FY 07-08 WRAP-UP AND DISCUSSION**

Director Rawland touched on the highlights of FY 07-08:

1. Presented the FY 07-08 Business Plan goals and objectives
2. Restructured administrative team by regional operations for transformation to an integrated system across the board.
3. Creation of a new Vision, Mission and Values Statement by a taskforce consisting of contract agencies and DBH staff with a common goal. Reinforced cooperation and collaboration through all entities.
4. ARMC Inpatient Unit and Dr. Keith Gordon are a part of our group. We ensure patients a seamless transition to outpatient care upon discharge.
5. Increased staff by 54% in 3 years and continue to concentrate on our staffing profile to meet the diversity of our population. We've grown and demand is increasing.
6. MHSA: We've been approved for \$80 million. Total received after 3-yr cycle will be \$153 million.
7. DBH is working with Human Resources to incorporate My Emotional Health Matters into the county's My Health Matters Program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Workforce Education and Training (WET) Plan was presented to the Mental Health Commission by Mariann Ruffolo, WET Admin Manager. \$10.8 million in total funding. Gary Atkins asked if Drug and Alcohol training can be incorporated into WET as we already have good relationships with UCR and Valley College. Allan suggested Gary look at the plan to determine the best place to add. Lisha Smith stated we already have a good relationship with San Bernardino County Schools ROP program. Lisha will give contact information to Mariann.
2. Program Visit Guidelines were reviewed and approved by all members of the Mental Health Commission.
3. Review and Approve Award Nomination Form was deferred to August 7 meeting.

## **OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

No comments at this time.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**District 1:** Commissioner Gonzales and Swift chaired the PEI Public Hearing in Victorville on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Swift led the meeting and Commissioner Gonzales discussed recovery.

Commissioner Ford stated that Santa Barbara County was not represented at CALMHB/C.

**District 2:** No report at this time.

**District 3:** Commissioner Massa stated that pictures of some members of Team House and Pathways to Recovery will be included in the new DBH Resource Directory to be published soon.

Commissioner Perry thanked André for his technical support during the State of Behavioral Health event. Big Bear One-Stop Collaboration met on July 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the next steps in providing local assistance to mountain communities.

**District 4:** Commissioner Mercer continues to be very active at Tent City in Ontario and other non-profits in the area.

**District 5:** Commissioner Jews thanked André Bossieux for inviting the Mental Health Commission to TAY on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. She thoroughly enjoyed the event. Commissioner Jews continues to participate on the EQRO taskforce and the African American Coalition.

Commissioner McGee-Stehsel attended the TAY event, as well as the State of the Department. She continues to work on PEI and WET activities at the universities, using an interdisciplinary approach.

Commissioner Godager has known Dr. Andonov for over 30 years and is sad to see him go and will truly miss him. She thanked Dr. Andonov for taking charge when appointed to the Commission and leading them in the right direction.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Andonov stated he may be relocating but his heart will remain in San Bernardino County. He handed the gavel and relinquished his Chair to David Ford, Vice President.

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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*Nick Andonov*  
Chairman

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*Debi Pasco*  
Clerk of the Commission